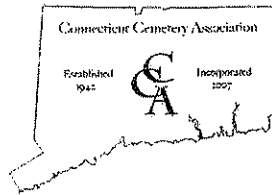


THE CONNECTICUT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC.
INCORPORATED 2007



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March 12, 2010

Testimony of Armand A. Chevette

President - Mountain Grove Cemetery Association, Bridgeport, CT

Chairman - Mausoleum Legislative Committee of the Connecticut Cemetery Association
Public Health Committee

Good afternoon Chairpersons Senator Harris and Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Armand Chevette; I am president of Mountain Grove Cemetery Association in Bridgeport. I am here representing the Connecticut Cemetery Association as Chairman of the Mausoleum Legislative Committee. The Connecticut Cemetery Association represents over 100 cemeteries in the State and is made up of religious, municipal and non-sectarian cemeteries. There are over 50,000 mausoleum crypt spaces that have been constructed in our member cemeteries in community mausoleums over the past 40 years. This number does not include privately owned family mausoleums that have put on family lots in cemeteries over the last 150 years.

I am here to testify in support of with an additional amendment to:

Raised Bill No. 428, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Public Health Related Statutes - Page 49, Section 50, Sub-Section B (2).

We are in favor of the proposed amendment to change the ABS plastic requirement to a nationally accepted composite plastic material. We strongly suggest that an additional amendment be made narrowing the requirement to all deceased persons who are not embalmed. This would be in keeping with the original bill submitted by Representative Geigler in January 2009 which was changed in the legislative process to include all deceased persons being entombed in crypt or mausoleum.

Our suggested change would read as follows:

Any deceased person who is not embalmed and who is to be entombed in a crypt or mausoleum shall be in a casket that is placed in a zinc-lined or nationally accepted composite plastic container or, if permitted by the cemetery where the disposition of the body is to be made, a non-oxidizing or nationally accepted composite plastic tray.

The State Department of Public Health has been the final authority since the construction of community mausoleums started in 1969. In order to build a community mausoleum the final plans must be submitted to DPH prior to construction. Approval is based primarily on three requirements: a venting system for gases, a drainage system for fluids into a drywell and that all crypts are pitched back toward the drainage and venting systems in the rear of the crypt. The department will do interim inspections and also do the final inspection after construction and issue a CO to allow the cemetery to sell entombment rights to its families.

Most cemeteries with community mausoleums have within their own operating procedures requirements addressing deceased who are not embalmed. Less than 1% of all entombments are not embalmed. According to Robert Scully at the DPH there have been only 1 or 2 instances where the DPH was involved in these matters in the last 20 years and they are of the opinion this is a non-issue. The Commissioner of DPH has additional authority through its current regulations to step in and rectify any situation they deem a detriment to public health and safety.

Thank you for your consideration.